

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES **SEPTEMBER 7, 2010**

Commission Members: John P. Chiota, Esq. Chairman; William S. Holden, Vice Chairman;
Gail J. Hanna, Secretary; Russell Friedson, Daniel F. Schopick, Esq.,
and Paul Timpanelli

In attendance at the meeting: John P. Chiota, Esq., William S. Holden, Russell Friedson, Daniel F. Schopick, Esq., and Paul Timpanelli.

Absent from the meeting: Gail J. Hanna

Also present: James Abraham, Vice Chairman – Economic Development Commission; and Deborah Cox, Director - Economic Development Commission

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:15PM

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 28, 2010 by John P. Chiota, Esq., seconded by William S. Holden, approved unanimously.

Correspondence from Loretta Chory, Board of Education; Robert Nicola, Esq., Owens, Schine & Nicola, P.C.; and Deborah Cox, Economic Development, were submitted to the commission for their review.

The commission continued with the revision of the Charter:

CHAPTER VIII. ELECTORAL PROCESS.

Section 1. Eligibility.

- Idea # 62** - A person should not hold more than one (1) position in the Town. The language needs to be re-worded in accordance with the statute.
- Idea # 63** - Change of wording: This section shall not apply if otherwise provided by ordinance or “state statute” (delete *legislation*) and shall not apply to temporary boards, commissions or committees appointed for special purposes by the Council or by the First Selectman.

Section 3. Oaths of office.

- Idea #64** - Change town elections from 2-year term to 4-year term. (Paul Timpanelli is in agreement while John Chiota, Daniel Schopick and Russell Friedson are not).
- Idea #65** - Last sentence: add “Saturday”

Section 5. Vacancies.

Idea #66 - C.2. A vacancy in an elective office, board or commission other than the Council should not be appointed by the First Selectman as in pertaining to alternates.

Section 7. Referendum.

- Idea #67** - A.1.a. Appropriation of money should be changed from \$100,000.00 to \$500,000.00.
- Idea #68** - B.1. Petition filing change from (20 days) – extend to 25 days.
- Idea #69** - B.2. Reduce the number (10%) of the electors of the Town.
- Idea #70** - B.6. Change appropriation from \$100,000.00 to \$500,000.00.
- Idea #71** - Delete: C.1.a.b.c. and C.2.a.b.c.

Regarding the annual budget referendum and capital budget, at the request of John Chiota, Russell Friedson will provide the commission with a proposal.

- Idea #72** - D.2. “Town Clerk” replace with “Registrar”.
- Idea #73** - D.3.a. Appropriation consistent – \$100,000.00 increase to \$500,000.00.
- Idea #74** - E. 1. New language should read: All referenda shall be decided by a majority of the electors voting thereon, provided that the number of votes cast (delete “in the affirmative”) shall exceed fifteen percent (15%) (15% should be increased to 17-20%) of the number of electors (delete “on the last completed voter registration list”) who voted in the last election.
- Idea #75** - G. New language should read: If, upon submission to a vote of the electors, an emergency measure is rejected, all rights, privileges, powers and duties conferred by it shall be null and void; provided any payment (delete “made”) for services rendered or items received or expenses incurred in accordance with the measure prior to the certification of a petition thereon shall not be affected thereby.
- Idea #76** - H. typo top of page 46 “0be” should be “be”.
- Idea #77** - I. super majority of the Council should be “2/3” of the Council.
- Idea #78** - Change “90” days to “30” days.

Section 8. Initiative

- Idea #79** - C. Should be consistent (see “I” above).
- Idea #80** - D. Should be consistent (see “I” above).
Should be standard throughout.

Section 9. Removal from office-Recall of public officers.

Not sure if we have the legal authority to make any changes?

- Idea #81** - D. New language: If (a) the number of votes cast in said election (delete “equals fifty-one percent (51%)”) exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast for the office in question at the preceding Town election and (b), etc.

The Commission will start at **CHAPTER I AND CHAPTER II** with preliminary votes. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2010.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:55PM

Respectfully Submitted:
Marilou Mangiamele, Clerk

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